

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-10

ACDA-05 AID-05 COME-00 EB-07 FRB-03 TRSE-00 XMB-02

OPIC-03 CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 /100 W

----- 065317

R 261709Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1022

INFO AMCONSUL BREMEN

AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF

AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

AMCONSUL HAMBURG

AMCONSUL MUNICH

AMCONSUL STUTTGART

USMISSION USBERLIN

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, GW

SUBJECT: THE MANNHEIM DECLARATION -- FIRST STEP  
TOWARD A NEW ORIENTATION OF CDU POLICY?

BEGIN SUMMARY: IN ITS MANNHEIM DECLARATION, THE CDU  
HAS DRAWN ATTENTION TO THE SPECIAL NEEDS OF THE UN-  
ORGANIZED AND THE DISADVANTAGED AND AT THE SAME TIME  
EMPHASIZED THE IMPORTANCE OF STREAMLINING RATHER THAN  
EXPANDING GOVERNMENT PROGRAMS. END SUMMARY.

1. THE CENTRAL POINT OF THE 41-PAGE MANNHEIM DECLARA-  
TION, ADOPTED UNANIMOUSLY BY CDU CONVENTION DELEGATES  
ON JUNE 24, AND THE CLOSELY RELATED WOMEN'S PROGRAM,  
PASSED BY A LARGE MAJORITY, IS THAT THE CDU PLANS TO  
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ADDRESS ITSELF TO "THE NEW SOCIAL QUESTION" -- I.E.,

THAT IT WILL PROPOSE SOLUTIONS TO THE PROBLEMS OF THE UNORGANIZED (THE ELDERLY, THE CRIPPLED, THE CONSUMERS, WOMEN, GUEST WORKERS, ETC.) AND WILL NOT AT THE SAME TIME INCREASE GOVERNMENT EXPENDITURES AND BUREAUCRACY. CHARGING THAT THE SPD HAS "AGGRAVATED SOCIAL INJUSTICE" BECAUSE OF ITS "ECONOMIC MISMANAGEMENT" AND THAT THE SPD HAS BECOME A PARTY OF "PRIVILEGED, NON-PRODUCTIVE BUREAUCRATS," THE CDU HAS OFFERED ITSELF AS A POLITICAL HOME FOR "THE OUTSIDERS" WHOSE INTERESTS ARE NOT SUFFICIENTLY PROTECTED IN "THE NOW EQUALLY POWERFUL" TRADE UNIONS AND BUSINESS ENTERPRISES. THE CDU APPROACH, NOTED REPEATEDLY BY CDU SECRETARY-GENERAL BIEDENKOPF, WILL EMPHASIZE ECONOMIC STABILITY AND PROSPERITY, IMPROVEMENT IN THE FUNCTIONING OF EXISTING GOVERNMENT PROGRAMS, AND "EDUCATION OF OUR CITIZENS TOWARD A SPIRIT OF GREATER INDIVIDUAL RESPONSIBILITY, COMMUNITY COOPERATION AND SOCIAL ENGAGEMENT."

2. BIEDENKOPF EMPHASIZED THAT THE MANNHEIM DECLARATION IS "NEITHER A STATEMENT OF FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES NOR AN ELECTION PLATFORM BUT NONETHELESS " A STEP TOWARD A NEW ORIENTATION OF CDU POLICY." YET TO BE ANSWERED, HOWEVER, IS WHETHER THIS NEW CDU APPEAL TO THE SO-CALLED MARGINAL GROUPS CAN BE MADE CREDIBLE. MANY VOTERS WILL TEND TO DOUBT WHETHER THERE ACTUALLY IS A POLITICAL WILL WITHIN THE CDU AND EVEN MORE IMPORTANTLY IN THE CSU STRONG ENOUGH TO TRANSFORM OPPOSITION RHETORIC INTO A GENUINE POLITICAL COMMITMENT ON SOCIAL ISSUES. OTHERS WILL QUESTION WHETHER THE CDU WOULD BE ANY BETTER ABLE THAN THE SPD/FDP TO DELIVER MEANINGFUL PROGRAMS FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AND COMMUNITY PROTECTION, IMPROVED HEALTH CARE, ETC. WITHOUT BIGGER AND MORE EXPENSIVE GOVERNMENT.

3. THE CDU'S WOMEN'S PROGRAM, WHILE ALSO CONTRIBUTING

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FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1023

INFO AMCONSUL BREMEN

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TO THE IMAGE OF A FORWARD LOOKING PARTY, IS ESSENTIALLY  
TRADITIONAL IN OUTLOOK. IT, TOO, SUGGESTS THAT IM-  
PROVEMENTS CAN BE MADE WITHOUT GREATER EXPENDITURES.  
THE TWO MAIN PROPOSALS ARE THE INTRODUCTION OF  
INDEPENDENT PENSIONS FOR HOUSEWIVES (BY SPLITTING  
THE HUSBAND'S PENSION) AND SUBSIDIES FOR PARENTS WITH  
YOUNG CHILDREN (SO THAT THE MOTHER WILL NOT HAVE TO  
WORK). MANY WILL CONSIDER THE CDU LEGISLATIVE GOALS  
IN THIS AREA MORE REALISTIC THAN THOSE OF THE SPD/FDP.  
FOR OTHERS, HOWEVER, THE CDU PROGRAM WILL NOT GO FAR  
ENOUGH.

4. IN SUM, ALTHOUGH EMPHASIS ON "THE NEW SOCIAL  
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QUESTION" HELPS TO PRESENT THE CDU AS A PARTY WITH  
"A SOCIAL CONSCIENCE," THE CDU WILL NEVERTHELESS CON-  
TINUE TO HAVE A DIFFICULT TIME IN WINNING ADDITIONAL  
PENSIONERS, WOMEN, ETC. AWAY FROM THE SPD/FDP. OF  
GREATER INTEREST TO THE VOTERS WILL BE THE CDU'S ACCENT  
ON COMMON SENSE AND ITS PROMISE TO IMPROVE GOVERNMENT  
EFFICIENCY, REDUCE EXPENDITURES AND STREAMLINE THE  
BUREAUCRACY. THIS WILL FIND A STRONG ECHO AMONG THE  
ELECTORATE, AND THE CDU/CSU CREDIBILITY AS A PARTY IN  
THIS AREA IS GREATER THAN THAT OF THE SPD. NEVER-  
THELESS, AS LONG AS SCHMIDT REMAINS CHANCELLOR AND

CHANCELLOR-DESIGNATE, THIS THEME WILL ALSO BE LESS  
THAN ORIGINAL.  
HILLENBRAND

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
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**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
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**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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